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ACTION ARA-10

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O 211503Z SEP 79
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2493

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
211554Z/53
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

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LIMDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY VAKY FROM AMBASSADOR CASTRO

E.O. 12065: GDS 9-21-85 (CHAPLIN, MAXWELL) OR-M
TAGS: SHUM AR
SUBJ: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ TIMERMAN CONDITIONAL REQUEST FOR REFUGE

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ON THE AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 20 THE AMBASSADOR RECEIVED A VISIT FROM RABBI MARSHALL MEYER, WHO MINISTERS TO JACOBO TIMERMAN. HE HAD BROUGHT WITH HIM A TYPED MESSAGE FROM TIMERMAN WHICH THE LATTER HAD DELIVERED TO HIM DURING A VISIT THAT AFTERNOON. THE MEMORANDUM WAS IN TYPED FORM SINCE TIMERMAN ASSUMES HIS APARTMENT IS UNDER ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE, AND HE CANNOT DISCUSS MATTERS OPENLY WITH HIS RABBI. THE MEMORANDUM DEALS WITH THE POSSIBILITY THE GOA MAY GRANT TIMERMAN LIBERTY BUT WILL NOT PROVIDE HIM WITH A PASSPORT TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. HE ANTICIPATES THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL SIMPLY WITHDRAW POLICE PROTECTION FROM HIS APARTMENT WHICH, HE BELIEVES, WOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO A SENTENCE OF DEATH. HE OBSERVES THAT AS A MATTER OF FACT SINCE SEPTEMBER 17

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WHEN THE ARMY LEARNED OF THE COURT'S DECISION, THE GUARD ON HIS HOUSE HAD BEEN TRIPLED AND THE POLICE

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COMMISARIO TOLD HIS BROTHER THEY HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT HIS KIDNAPPING WAS BEING PLANNED BY SOME GROUP.

3. THE MEMORANDUM CONTINUES THAT IF HE IS FREED BUT NOT GRANTED A PASSPORT, HE WILL HAVE TO LEAVE HIS APARTMENT. HE SAYS HE COULD GO TO THE ISRAELI EMBASSY BUT IT IS AN UNPLEASANT PLACE WHICH WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR HIM AND HE WOULD PREFER TO STAY IN THE U.S. EMBASSY RESIDENCE. HE SAYS SINCE HE WOULD BE A FREE MAN, IT WOULD NOT BE A QUESTION OF ASYLUM BUT SIMPLY OF BEING AN INVITED GUEST. THE MEMO INDICATES HE BELIEVES THAT THE WASHINGTON ATMOSPHERE IS SUCH THAT U.S. OFFICIALS WOULD LOOK FAVORABLY ON HIS TAKING REFUGE IN THE EMBASSY RESIDENCE.

4. TIMERMAN STATES THAT IF HE IS GRANTED A PASSPORT, THERE IS NO PROBLEM BECAUSE HE WOULD BE SENT TO THE AIRPORT ACCOMPANIED BY AN ARMY OF POLICE.

5. AMBASSADOR CASTRO CONSIDERS THAT THE CONTINGENCY FEARED BY TIMERMAN IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY, AT LEAST IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. THE JUNTA IS MEETING MONDAY AND TUESDAY, ACCORDING TO VIOLA, AND WE ASSUME IT WILL DISCUSS TIMERMAN THEN. AMBASSADOR HAS TENTATIVE APPOINTMENT TO SEE VIOLA ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26. DESPITE THE IMPROBABILITY OF THE CONTINGENCY, IT CANNOT BE ENTIRELY DISCOUNTED. SHOULD TIMERMAN BE FREED AND PROTECTION WITHDRAWN, AMBASSADOR PROPOSES TO INVITE HIM TO REMAIN AT THE RESIDENCE AS AN INVITED GUEST AND TO TRANSPORT HIM TO THE RESIDENCE (AND PRESUMABLY [REDACTED]
[REDACTED])

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SUBSEQUENTLY TO THE AIRPORT) IN HIS OFFICIAL ARMORED VEHICLE. AT THE SAME TIME, EMBASSY WOULD MAKE A FORCEFUL REQUEST TO PRESIDENT, GENERAL VIOLA AND MINISTER OF INTERIOR TO PROVIDE MAXIMUM SECURITY TO RESIDENCE. WE BELIEVE SUCH SECURITY WOULD BE PROVIDED.

6. WHILE WE REPEAT THIS CONTINGENCY SEEMS REMOTE, AMBASSADOR WISHES REASSURANCE THAT DEPARTMENT DOES NOT OBJECT TO HIS PROPOSED OFFER OF HOSPITALITY AND REFUGE TO JACOBO TIMERMAN SHOULD THAT SEEM ADVISABLE. CASTRO

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